

2 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Legislative Interdepartmental Group Meeting - 14 April 1975
President's Request for Military Aid to Southeast Asia

1. This afternoon I attended a meeting of the Legislative Inter-departmental Group in the Situation Room of the White House. Present were:

White House

General Brent Scowcroft
Mr. John Marsh
Mr. Max Friedersdorf
Mr. Vern Loen
Mr. Bill Kendall
Mr. Bob Wolthuis

NSC

Mr. Les Jenka
Colonel Donald MacDonald
Colonel Clinton Granger

State

Mr. Samuel Goldberg
Mr. Robert McCloskey

DOD

Mr. John Maury
Mr. Richard Fryklund

CIA

Mr. George Cary

AID

Mr. Matthew Harvey

OMB

Mr. Edward Strait

USIA

Mr. Edward Hidalgo

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2. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate Administration action with respect to the President's request for \$722 million for military aid to Southeast Asia. General Scowcroft pointed out that the President's request was based on what General Weyand felt was needed under the circumstances to stabilize the situation in Vietnam and to permit negotiations and evacuation.


3. It was emphasized that we needed to keep our feet to the fire on the deadline of 18 April and attempt to line up support for the President's proposal.

4. Shortly before the LIG meeting the President had met with the Foreign Relations Committee at the White House and the Senate Staff personnel seemed to be rather encouraged that something meaningful could be worked out between the Congress and the White House on this subject. At the same time, they are totally aware that this is an uphill battle. For instance, there are three resolutions that have been reported out of the Senate caucus all demanding an evacuation and action on these resolutions was delayed only because of the meeting at the White House this afternoon.

5. Mr. Maury said he had talked to a number of people on the House Armed Services Committee and it is his opinion that a lot of the old line supporters are not favorably disposed toward the President's proposal in this instance. In this connection, it was pointed out that the meeting scheduled with the House Armed Services Committee on Tuesday on this subject would be critical. No matter what happens in the Senate, if the vote is lost in the House Committee, the whole issue is down the drain. A head count was taken of the House Armed Services Committee members and various representatives present agreed to contact the Committee members in an effort to line up their support for the President's proposal. Most of the contacts will be made by the Department of Defense and the White House Legislative Liaison Staff. Obviously, I did not undertake to contact any of the members on this subject.

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6. The thinking today was that if the head count in the House Armed Services Committee is as bad as it appears, efforts will be made to delay a vote in the hope that further support can be obtained in the next few days. It was also noted that there will be a meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday to mark up a bill and that of course is a very important meeting.


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